



# Middle East News

## Hoss ready for dialogue with Aoun to end crisis

**BEIRUT** (Agencies) — The head of Lebanon's civilian government said Saturday he was ready to start talking to a rival military administration if this would help solve the political crisis.

"We are ready if there are signs that this will lead to some kind of accord that will extricate Lebanon from the present situation," acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss told a news conference.

Hoss described his talks in Tunis earlier this week with six Arab foreign ministers as "very positive and fruitful."

The ministerial committee, set up by the Arab League to try to end Lebanon's crisis, also had talks with Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini and Major-General Michel Aoun, head of the rival government.

Last summer Christian deputies twice blocked the Lebanese parliament's attempts to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel.

Just before his term expired in September, Gemayel appointed Aoun as head of an interim administration but Hoss's cabinet says it is the true government.

After three days of round-the-clock meetings in Tunis Sheikh

Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister and chairman of the committee, said Hoss and Aoun were still at odds, mainly over reforms to the sectarian-based political system.

Hoss said his government insisted that all presidential contenders should present a reform programme to give each sect a fair share in the system, which currently reserves the presidency for a Christian.

"We are aware of the importance of electing a new president but we cannot consider a candidate unless we know his views on reforms," he said.

He said contacts were being increased between the Arab committee and Western states to find a settlement for Lebanon.

Aoun has been briefing Western diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy, on his Tunis talks.

French government envoy Jean Francois Deniau, who arrived in Beirut Friday, met Aoun and

other officials to discuss ways of pushing the Tunis dialogue forward.

Hoss said the committee would consult other Lebanese leaders in Kuwait at the end of this month. It would report back to other Arab foreign ministers and possibly to an Arab League summit.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Sheikh Sabah Saturday and wished him success, saying Damascus had wanted for years to end Lebanon's crisis.

One of the obstacles at the talks was Aoun's demand that the committee set a timetable for the withdrawal of some 25,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Hoss said a decision on withdrawal should be approved by a unified cabinet. He said any discussion must be accompanied by a decision to rehabilitate the divided Lebanese army so it would be in a position to take over.

### Call for speaker elections

Deputy Kazem Al Khalil urged other members of parliament to meet next Thursday to re-elect or replace Husseini, whose term ended in October when parliament failed to muster a quorum to



Salim Al Hoss

choose a successor.

Some legal experts say Khalil, 84, the oldest member of parliament, has the constitutional right to call for a meeting.

"I hope the deputies will agree to meet next Thursday at Villa Mansour," Khalil said in a statement. Villa Mansour, the parliamentary headquarters, is located in the no-man's land on Beirut's dividing green line.

There was no immediate response to the proposal.

Khalil, who lives in east Beirut, vowed outrage at the split in parliament which he called "the fatal blow" to the country's unity.

"If the required quorum is met, they (the deputies) will have a speaker and will pave the way for the election of a new president.

## U.N. plans Afghan food relief

**ISLAMABAD** (Agencies) — The United Nations is organising truck convoys to bring food to hungry Afghans in cities under rebel siege, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said Saturday.

"We are now organising convoys for food and other relief to Jalalabad and from Iran to Herat," the U.N. coordinator for Afghan humanitarian aid told reporters on arrival in Pakistan for a week-long visit.

Jalalabad, on the road between the capital Kabul and the Pakistani border, is under heavy siege from Afghan Mujahideen rebels, who say they have sent one 40-truck food convoy to city suburbs which they hold.

According to Western diplomatic sources, the western city of Herat is relatively quiet, but like most Afghan cities, its inhabitants are short of food.

The nine-year Mujahideen war against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul saw heavy bombing across western Afghanistan.

last October, preventing planting, the sources said.

Many people were leaving towns in hope of finding food in the countryside, they added.

Mujahideen officials said they wanted more U.N. food supplies to distribute in areas they hold and the Aga Khan suggested this would not be a problem.

"We are trying to pre-position supplies all over the place," he said.

The Aga Khan said he would be holding discussions with Mujahideen leaders based in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar on organising relief convoys.

The United Nations wants to send food by road to Kabul, where a Mujahideen blockade led to severe food shortages in signed last April.

The Mujahideen are planning to hold a consultative council Feb. 10 to approve an interim government that is widely hoped would be able to negotiate peace.

The Aga Khan said he would be delivering to the Mujahideen leaders a political message from U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The message was that "this is a very critical time and we have to give peace a chance," he said.

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## 447 killed in different incidents last year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) records indicate that a total of 447 persons were killed and 12,368 others were injured in different types of accidents and incidents that occurred in the Kingdom in the past year, according to CDD Director General Khaled Tarawneh.

The past year witnessed a greater number of "recorded incidents" than before because of an increase in the number of civil defence centres in many parts of the Kingdom which were called on to give assistance, and not because the incidents increased in number over previous years, Tarawneh noted in an interview published in Al Ra'a Arabic daily Saturday.

The CDD also provides a very useful service to factories and businesses through the early alarm system, which enables fire-fighters and rescue men from the CDD to reach the scene of accidents in a relatively short time to deal with emergency situations, Tarawneh added.

Apart from the loss in life, the incidents and accidents in the country caused damages estimated in millions of dinars, Tarawneh pointed out.

He expressed hope that the

CDD would be provided with helicopters to help carry out rescue operations whenever this is necessary.

The CDD now plans to open a special institute to recruit and train staff who will carry out rescue, first aid and fire fighting operations, and it is hoped that such an institute will be sufficient for the country from now until the year 2000, Tarawneh noted.

He said that the CDD provides great service to travellers on the road through the various emergency and rescue centres, especially those installed near or along the main highways.

The CDD also provides a very useful service to factories and businesses through the early alarm system, which enables fire-fighters and rescue men from the CDD to reach the scene of accidents in a relatively short time to deal with emergency situations, Tarawneh added.

He said that the CDD operations included rescue work, first aid and fire fighting among other activities which were provided to the public in the past year.

In the interview, Tarawneh also spoke about the CDD's data bank which was later installed and which, he said, provides all valuable information for the dealing with incidents.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**KING SENDS CONDOLENCES:** His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to convey condolences to Al Hwayyan family on the death of the mother of Major General Mohammad Salimah Al Hwayyan. The King also delegated the governor of Irbid to convey condolences to Al Shanti family on the death of late Barakat Mahmoud Al Shanti. (Petra)

**ASSAD MEETS ROMANIAN ENVOY:** Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nasseruddin Al Assad Saturday discussed with the Romanian charge d'affaires in Amman means to reinforce bilateral relations in the field of higher education, scientific research, and increasing the number of Jordanian students specialising in fields of study needed in Jordan. (Petra)

**FORMER MINISTER ALI KHREIS DIES:** Former Social Affairs and Labour Minister Ali Inad Khreis Saturday passed away at Al Hussein Medical Centre, according to a statement issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday. The late Ali Khreis held a number of senior government posts that included ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and director of the Civil Service Commission. (Petra)

**WORLD BANK TEAM STARTS MEETINGS:** A team from the World Bank has started meetings with Jordanian officials at the Ministry of Planning to prepare a plan to finance Jordan's industry and export programmes and stimulate investment. The first meeting with the team was attended by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan. (Petra)

**ABU QOURA LEAVES FOR GENEVA:** President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society left for Geneva Saturday to take part in the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura said that the meeting will discuss matters to be tackled by the league's general meetings in April. (Petra)

**KOREAN PHOTO EXHIBITION:** An exhibition of Korean photos, books and handicrafts will open Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. The exhibition, which will be open daily until Feb. 9, will be under the patronage of Minister of Culture and Information Mohammed Hammoud. (Petra)

**AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION:** An agricultural exhibition will open at the professional association complex in Amman Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The three-day exhibition, in which 40 local companies are taking part, will display samples of Jordanian crops, agricultural equipment and machinery. The Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Jordan are also taking part in the exhibition.

**POWER SUPPLIED TO 98% OF SOUTH:** The Jordan Electricity Authority has supplied 98 per cent of the villages located in the southern part of the Kingdom with electricity. These villages are inhabited by about 330,000 people. (Petra)

**JE SEMINAR:** The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will hold a seminar Tuesday on the design of high voltage power transmission lines. The seminar, which is held in cooperation with an Italian firm, will be attended by a number of electric institutions in Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Libya. (Petra)

**AMERICAN COLLEGE TEAM:** A group of students from Eastern Mennonite College in the United States Saturday called at the University of Jordan and were briefed by its President Abdal Salam Al Majali on the development of the various departments. The visitors toured the campus, inspected a number of activities and were briefed on the university's programmes. (J.T.)

**YARMOUK BOOK EXHIBITION:** Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Saturday opened a book exhibition which was organised in cooperation with the Arab Dar Publishing House. The five-day exhibition, at the Students' Department, displays various Arabic books tackling history, social studies, economics, law and political science, as well as references and compendiums. Hamdan also Saturday received in his office British Council Representative David Latta who called on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. Hamdan and Latta discussed cooperation in education. (J.T.)

**AMF TO MEET IN MARCH:** The Arab Monetary Fund's (AMF) council of governors will hold its 13th session in Amman in late March. During its two-day meetings, the council will discuss the Arab monetary policies and the effect of international monetary policies on the Arab countries. The Council of Arab Economic Unity will participate in the sessions and be represented by its Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim. (Petra)

**TRAINING COURSE ON COMPUTERS:** A training course on "monetary analysis by using the computer" Saturday began at the Jordan Institute of Management. The seven-day course is designed to familiarise the employees with computer work and applications. Employees of banks and investment companies in Jordan, North Yemen, and Kuwait are participating in this course. (Petra)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- An agricultural exhibition displaying agricultural equipment and products at the Professional Association Complex.
- A computer exhibition displaying a new line of computers with greater performance and new power at Marriott Hotel in Amman.
- The Arab Book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.

#### FILM

- A film entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" which is shown as part of the activities of the American Centre 1989 film festival on Independent Filmmakers — 8:00 p.m.



Turkish Army Chief of Staff General Necit Toumtay and his accompanying delegation Friday visit the ancient Nabataean city of Petra.

## Turkish chief of staff ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Army Chief of Staff General Necit Toumtay wound up a visit to Jordan Saturday and left for home. He was seen off by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers.

During the visit to Jordan the Turkish guest was received by His Majesty King Hussein and had

talks with Jordanian officials. The Turkish general Friday visited frontline army positions and was briefed by commanders on the Karameh Battle in the Jordan Valley.

He later visited the Martyrs Monument in the Jordan Valley and the King Hussein Bridge.

Also Friday, Toumtay visited the ancient Nabataean city of Petra, accompanied by the Turkish delegation and senior army officers.

His tour in the south took him to the port city of Aqaba where he inspected the coast guard operations and he went out on a short cruise in the region.

## 9 Arab countries to discuss teaching science, technology

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Delegates from nine Arab countries affiliated to an international information network, run by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will open a meeting here Monday to discuss matters related to the teaching of science and technology in the Arab World.

At the five-day meeting, several working papers dealing with the international and the Jordanian information networks on teaching science and technology as well as modern trends in science and technology will be tackled by the delegates, according to a UNESCO official at the regional office in Amman.

The official said that means of teaching science and technology at all the school levels and experiments by each of the participating Arab countries will also be taken up by the delegates.

The meeting, he said, is designed to help improve and update the Arab World's curricula in science and technology at the various school levels.

Jordan has been a member of

the UNESCO-affiliated international information network since 1984.

Over the years, UNESCO has set up various forms of inter-governmental cooperation.

## RCC to host Italian cultural programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Activities and programmes reflecting Italian culture will be on show at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman during 1989, according to an announcement by the Italian embassy Saturday.

The statement said that these activities were discussed by Italian Ambassador Francesco de Courten during his visit to the RCC with its Acting Director Hani Soobar, who briefed the ambassador on facilities and

arrangements for the coming programmes.

Among the activities that the Italian embassy will organise this year at the RCC will be a lecture held by Prof. Nazareno Gabellini, director of the Laboratories of the Vatican Museums, about the restoration works of the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, a photographic exhibition of Italian painters of the 16th century and an Italian film week.

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On Wednesday, Heart Like a Wheel will be showing, Bonnie Bedelia, plays the wife of a service station owner, who will stop at nothing to become the first woman race car driver in the U.S. Two veteran drivers, Bill McKinney and Beau Bridges, help her challenge the national hot rod association's ban on women

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caught and jailed often enough to fall in love with his booking officer, Hunter. He reforms and they marry and set out in search of their own version of middle class success. Things turn sour when they find that Hunter can not have children, and they cannot adopt because of Cage's prison record.

Sam Robards, Judd Nelson and Kevin Costner star in Fandango, playing Tuesday. The film begins in a fraternity house at the University of Texas on graduation night in 1971. Five friends are finishing school with Robards having cold feet about getting married. Nelson is more ambivalent than he appears about fulfilling his ROTC commitment, and Costner is planning to run away to Mexico rather than answer his draft notice. The film is a farcical account of how the group resolves these problems in the course of a last wild outing to the Mexican border.

The final movie, the Big Easy, is a romantic comedy and a police thriller starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin. Quaid plays a New Orleans police detective who blindly accepts the petty corruption that he and his colleagues benefit from. Barkin is an out-of-state assistant district attorney sent to New Orleans to investigate a series of murders. She initially turns to Quaid for help in her investigation, and the two fall in love. But, Quaid is caught taking payoffs, and Barkin is assigned to the prosecution.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind, which will be showing on opening night, concentrates on two midwesterners who find their lives enormously changed in the wake of a series of UFO sightings. The woman (Teri Garr) undertakes a desperate search for her missing son, and a workman (Richard Dreyfuss) develops an inexplicable obsession with the alien space ships.

On Monday Raising Arizona, a rollicking comedy starring Nicholas Cage and Holly Hunter, will be presented. Cage is a convenience store robber who gets

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Horani combines, the exact dose, the ingredients that every

audience knew, ended in a thunder of applause.

Played on the piano by Walid Horani, the "Pictures at an Exhibition" sounded as rich as superb as on the orchestral version arranged by Maurice Ravel. Changing from the slow and beautiful tempo of "Promenade" to the broken one of "The Gnome," Horani took the visitor from picture to picture, thus perfectly conveying Mussorgsky's idea.

The public would not leave before 3 enthusiastic encores.

A rare sense of the keyboard dynamics, more particularly in Chopin's Polonoises, combined to appropriate attacks enable Horani to fully use the expressive potential of the piano, obtain superb tonal balance and colours, and turn the instrument to a full size orchestra.

Horani is excellent proof of how a performer can reach technical perfection and still remain warm and emotional in his interpretation.

Walid Horani was born in New York in 1948, has lived in Beirut and had his name linked to famous musicians like Aram Khatchaturian and Eugene Ormandy. The unique concert was presented by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Amman, in cooperation with the RCC.



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## Jordan and Egypt await final approval to link national grids

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A \$170 million project to link the national grids of Egypt and Jordan was discussed by the latest joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo last month, and concerned authorities in the two countries are now awaiting final approval for the project, according to an official from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday.

Ribbi Hamed, the JEA chief engineer, said that the linkage will take place through the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, which is on the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Sinai Desert.

The process entails laying a 12-kilometre, 400 kilovolt line from Aqaba to be linked to a 12-kilometre long submarine cable to reach the Sinai coast where it will be linked to a 290-kilometre, 500-kilovolt line into the Egyptian territory.

His tour in the south took him to the port city of Aqaba where he inspected the coast guard operations and he went out on a short cruise in the region.

Ribbi Hamed, the JEA chief engineer, said that the linkage will help to two sides deal with emergency power shortages in their countries which will benefit from low-cost power generation.

Under the feasibility study agreement with a French firm, Jordan and Egypt left an option clause for possible inclusion of Saudi Arabia should Riyadh decide on sources of finance.

The two sides last month announced completion of consultancy work in cooperation with a

French firm, and a full report on the project was submitted to the highest committee meeting in Cairo.

According to JEA officials, work on the project can begin this year, but it will not be operational before 1993.

The linkage with Egypt, Hamed said, will help the two sides deal with emergency power shortages in their countries which will benefit from low-cost power generation.

The report from JEA coincided with the arrival here Saturday by a team representing the Egyptian Electricity Corporation on a several day visit to Jordan and talks with JEA officials.

A JEA spokesman said that the two sides will discuss technical matters related to the project,

and the subject of promoting electricity generation in the two countries.

## Ministry to reduce one third of annual fresh meat imports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply plans to reduce by one third the Kingdom

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1989

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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## Hurrah for the intifada

THE PALESTINIAN decision to faithfully and effectively boycott Israeli goods and to stop payment of taxes to the occupation authorities give the Palestinian uprising a new momentous tone and dimension. These newly adopted measures in the occupied territories constitute an effective escalation of the Palestinian intifada and puts it in a new high gear that cannot be halted save by an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. For even Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is start talking about the idea of Israeli withdrawal from urban centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reflects the magnitude of the Palestinian revolt and the extent of its achievements. It is a safe bet to conclude that the Palestinian insurrection which already gave birth to an Israeli offer to withdraw from cities and towns in the occupied territories after only fourteen months on its course can bring about a more comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories in the course of the next year or so. And now that the Palestinian uprising has added new features to its struggle in the form of a complete boycott of Israeli goods and services and the total disruption of tax collection, the economic and military cost of the Israeli occupation will become unbearable indeed. These developments would provide the kind of environment which is conducive to a real settlement of the Palestinian conflict. And what propelled the Palestinian sustained struggle against formidable odds in the first place is the desperate feeling among the Palestinians that after many decades of waiting now is the time to move on till the bitter-sweet end or never. This sense of determination and political will has always been absent in all previous Palestinian efforts to assert their rights no matter how high is the price that they have to incur. Indeed that is how all the other liberation movements succeeded worldwide in attaining their aspirations and objectives. And while Israeli authorities are pretending that they are not bending in the face of the uprising storm, the facts indicate otherwise. Israelis of all walks of life and of all political denominations are now painstakingly involved in deep soul searching about the next moves, and by the looks of things they could very well end up heeding the message of common sense and goodwill. This is the first hurrah for the Palestinian uprising.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday said that Israel has succeeded temporarily in delaying the achievement of peace in the Middle East by continuing to refuse the idea of an international conference and by closing its ears to the call of the world to give the Palestinians their rights in their homeland. The paper said that Israel has a great interest in maintaining the no-war, no-peace status quo in the region because this situation offers in the chance to pursue its Jewish settlement programmes and enables it to rally different groups inside Israel towards a common cause. It said that the uprising in the occupied Palestinian land has changed this strategy and threatened Israel's interests; and for this reason Israeli leaders nowadays have opted to new policies and a new propaganda war against the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The paper said that the Israeli government is now putting it about that it is the PLO which is obstructing the path of peace and is backed in this endeavour by the Arab countries. It will not be surprising to hear Israel fabricating new falsehoods and making up new stories for the sake of aborting all efforts leading towards peace because its leaders are clearly oriented against achieving that goal, the paper said.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the question of the proposed educational university and asks about the wisdom of having a fifth university in Jordan solely for the purpose of training teachers. Salah Abdil Samad says that training of teachers could be done through the existing universities and through the specialised community colleges in the Kingdom. The existing institutions can do this job easily since they already have the facilities, and entrusting them with this task can obviously save us lot of needless expenses, the writer notes. The writer also asks about the wisdom of placing the proposed university directly under the supervision of the Higher Council of Science and Technology, and says that the Ministries of Education and Higher Education can easily keep control over the higher institutes of learning in the country as they have been successfully doing that until now.

Al Dostour daily newspaper discussed Egypt's new policy towards Israel which is stalling and procrastinating its withdrawal from the occupied enclave of Taba. The paper paid tribute to President Hosni Mubarak who, it said, had expressed the thoughts of the Egyptian people in condemning Israel's stubbornness and its delays in implementing the resolution of an international panel of arbitrators which ruled that Egypt should take possession of the enclave which belonged to it in accordance with international boundaries. If Israel is so stubborn about a strip of land in the Sinai desert, what would it do about its withdrawal from the occupied parts of Palestine when the time comes? asked the paper. It said that Israel's stalling in this matter shows clearly that it wants to exercise blackmail against Egypt to adopt policies considered hostile to the Arab Nation. We back Mubarak's efforts and take pride in Egypt's stand in this matter, and consider this policy as honourable, and in line with the Arab Nation's stand, the paper said.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the question of Taba and said Israel was placing obstacles in the path of the return of this enclave to Egyptian sovereignty as it believed that by procrastinating, the Egyptians would be forced to give up their rights. The paper said what Israel is doing now is a form of open blackmail against Egypt, putting that country under pressure to force it to steer away from its present course of backing Arab causes. For Israel it said one thing is viable: To undertake any measure that would perpetuate its presence in the Arab land by all means and at any cost.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Faneck

## Dinar comes under renewed pressure

AFTER two months of relative stability in the exchange rate between the dinar and the dollar, the rate started to rise as of January 21 to reach 550 fils per dollar within a week, a rise of over 5 per cent.

Until then the rise of the dollar should not have received much attention, because the dollar rose internationally against all currencies with varied rates. It was only normal for the dollar exchange rate against the dinar to rise.

But this trend gained momentum of its own, and exceeded the limits warranted by the international gains of the dollar. The dinar came under renewed pressure, and by February 2, the domestic dollar rate in the local free market passed the 600 fils psychological barrier.

Two explanations may be offered. One relates to the fundamentals of the economy, such as the doubts about the prospects of future Arab aid to Jordan. The other relates to local market mechanism and tactics, such as the near withdrawal of a large bank from the market either due to lack of supply of dollars or as part of a power show off. It was normal for the smaller banks to re-act nervously, and follow the steps of the said bank, and cease to fund the dollar requirements of the market, which in turn sent the dollar up beyond expectations.

The last two weeks did not witness any negative economic or financial development to justify the steep decline of the dinar at 5 per cent or 15 per cent or any other percentage. Of course the negative factors were there, and the economic difficulties were still facing us, but they are under control, and the panic was behind us.

It is agreed that the inflow of foreign currencies in the form of expatriates' remittances and exports proceeds is sufficient to take care of all the ordinary foreign currency requirements of the private sector. The simple evidence is that the market was able to finance smoothly the previous imports and the letters of credits for future imports simultaneously, without a penny from the Central Bank, while the commercial banks were accumulating more dollars in reserve. Therefore, the real challenge is the efficient management to secure proper matching and fine-tuning of the country's receipts and payments in foreign exchange, and avoidance of bottle necks.

We definitely prefer to leave the whole operation in the hands of a large number of competing banks and financial corporations. It is far better to keep an active and free market in place to produce the needed signals for decision-makings rather than

giving the Central Bank full monopoly on receipts, payments and reserves of foreign exchange. In the latter case, distortions may take place, because the priorities and prices may be determined on political and administrative considerations, rather than on economic and financial basis, as they are supposed to be now.

However, the preservation of the present free banking system calls for larger banks not to try to overplay the market, outmanoeuvre the authorities, or act on personal whims to manipulate exchange rates. Such behaviour is irresponsible and may hurt, not only the public interest, but also the interests of the banks concerned.

Many analysts believe that the dinar declined much more than it should, and that it shifted from the state of overvalued currency to the opposite state of an undervalued currency. Even if we consider the current exchange rate as being fair and realistic, being determined freely in the market, the chances of future rise or decline are almost equal. Therefore, speculation against the dinar may give rise to profits but may cause losses. The only speculation that can guarantee benefits is that practiced by the big banks, who control a major chunk of the market. The enlightened self interest of those banks should prevent them from exploring their control, and playing power games.

## The 3-bloc scenario: An Orwellian world at war in trade

By Reginald Dale

DAVOS, Switzerland — A fashionable, almost Orwellian vision of the 1990s sees the world divided into three giant, warring blocs: North America, Europe and Eastern Asia. Unlike Orwell's superstates, which constantly waged conventional warfare, today's emerging blocs would battle with trade and economic weapons.

Few international economic gatherings nowadays are complete without warnings of the dangers of such a development. And this year's World Economic Forum in Davos has been no exception.

"There is a very great danger in the emergence of three blocs, that world trade will be reduced to these three zones," Helmut Haussmann, the West German economics minister, told the 900 delegates attending the annual business conference in this Swiss ski resort.

The North American bloc, according to the conventional wisdom, will be led by the United States and include Canada and, possibly later, Mexico.

Western Europe, and possibly later Eastern Europe, will coalesce around the European Community's post-1992 single market. And Japan will lead a league of fast-growing Asian economies.

"The 1990s will see freer trade inside the regional blocs and much less trade between them," said Lester C. Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Geneva-based custodian of the multilateral world trading system, "is dead," Thurow provocatively announced.

But many of the other participants at this year's forum questioned the inevitability of such a doom-laden scenario.

After private discussions among 60 or so of the delegates, Raymond Barre, the former prime minister of France, said the problem of blocs "appeared to be rather illusory." It is not in a country's interest to be a bloc member if that means losing essential outside markets and submitting to political domination by the leading member, he said.

"If we can maintain multilateral discussions, maintain the principle of limiting trade diversion by respecting international agreements, and promote trade creation, there is no danger that we will have three blocs," Barre added.

Few would disagree that a successful conclusion of the current so-called Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations would help to reduce the danger that the regional blocs will be hostile.

Some economists believe that blocs, if they had open trading

policies, could even promote rather than obstruct world trade.

But Barre's other arguments appeared to presume that most governments could choose whether to join blocs, rather than find themselves forced into them, as some delegates predicted.

"The pressures of world's structural trade and financial imbalances are pushing countries into blocs," said John Eatwell, professor of economics at Cambridge University.

Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Keidanren, the powerful Japanese Federation of Economic Organisations, said the EC clearly was not deliberately aiming to erect barriers against the outside world.

But, he said, he could not ignore the concern of Japanese business, and warnings from inside the EC, that Europe was nevertheless drifting toward the bloc approach.

As the Davos conference again

confirmed, it is the Asian countries that are the most worried. That is partly because they are so reliant on the U.S. and European markets, partly because there is as yet no homogeneous Asian bloc on the lines of the European Community or the U.S.-Canadian free trade area.

Soon Cho, the deputy prime minister of South Korea, said his country, Taiwan and other newly industrialising Asian economies had been developing trade with the United States and Europe, rather than among themselves.

Nevertheless, he forecast that while Asian governments were not yet ready to enter into formal agreements, "some kind of de facto economic integration will develop in northeast Asia."

And the shapes of the other blocs are still far from settled. European delegates here spoke frequently of the need for the EC to forge closer economic links not only with non-member countries in Western Europe, such as Austria, Switzerland and the Scandinavian nations, but also with Eastern Europe.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, the EC executive body, said that even if political differences remained, the EC could some day extend its single internal market to include Eastern Europe.

"One of the key questions," Thurow said, "is whether the Soviet Union is in or out of the European trading bloc. First, however, the Soviet Union has to find out how to make something to buy."

However, he said, blocs could be a positive step toward a world economy. Maybe the world could grow faster.

If the world economy continues to grow, and the Uruguay round succeeds, said another European delegate, the blocs might even be reasonably friendly — International Herald Tribune.

## Sudan's peace hopes diminish

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuters

NICOSIA — Hopes of ending the civil war in the famine-ravaged south of Sudan have diminished with the rise within the ruling coalition of Islamic militants advocating a military solution to the conflict, diplomats said.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi Wednesday appointed his brother-in-law, the leader of the National Islamic Front (NIF) Party Hassan Al Tourabi, as foreign minister. He is married to Mahdi's sister.

Tourabi has recently made overtures to Libya, the only foreign country known to be militarily involved in the five-year war against southern animists and Christians fighting what they claim as dominance by the Muslim north.

The Libyan airforce has flown bombing missions against strongholds of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south for the Khartoum government and the rebels have claimed to have captured several Libyan pilots.

Tourabi has backed Mahdi's Umma Party in its support for Sudanese-Libyan unity.

NIF is the most vocal advocate of a return to strict Islamic Sharia law with amputation for thieves and execution for adulterers, proposals anathema to the SPLA which have helped swell rebel ranks.

With NIF the coalition's second largest party after Umma, Mahdi will have little room for manoeuvre in his cautious efforts to end the war, diplomats said.

Sudan's Western backers and many Arab states were uncertain whether Mahdi himself was sincerely working for a peaceful settlement, some diplomats said.

The consolidation of NIF's position in government came less than a week after rebels captured the strategic southern town of Al Nasir near the Ethiopian border.

Mahdi and NIF rejected a peace pact signed last November between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the SPLA.

The pact, which won wide support at home and abroad, called for a freeze on the introduction of strict Islamic sharia law before a national constitutional conference was held.

DUF, after more than two years of partnership with Umma, quit the government in protest at the plan's rejection and joined several south Sudanese parties in opposition.

The five-year civil war has caused incalculable suffering to the six million inhabitants of the south, forcing at least half of them to flee. Tens of thousands

of relief workers say more would die in 1989 unless relief supplies reach them.

The SPLA, with an estimated 40,000 armed men, refuses to reopen peace talks until the government approves its accord with the DUP and has vowed to step up the fighting.

Foreign military experts in Khartoum and the Sudanese military believe the conflict can not be settled militarily.

But diplomats say NIF was convinced that an all-out offensive against the rebels would force the SPLA to enter peace talks unconditionally.

With the army's estimated 60,000 men stretched to the limit, poorly equipped and demoralised following recent rebel successes, NIF hopes Arab and Muslim states will contribute massive military aid to repel what they see as a threat to Islam and Arabism in Sudan, the diplomats said.

NIF, whose following is mainly in urban centres and among students and businessmen, is suspicious of Western efforts to end the conflict and send relief supplies to famine victims in the south.

Allegations that many foreign workers are spies, that foreign countries are meddling in Sudan's internal affairs and that Christian churches were siding with the rebels have been prominently displayed in NIF newspapers.

NIF's enhanced position in government has come amid signs that the United States might be prepared to take an active role in the search for a peaceful settlement to the war.

Washington has also said it was considering sending humanitarian cross-border aid direct to starving civilians trapped in SPLA-held areas.

NIF and Umma leaders are angered when foreign countries make contact with the SPLA.

**LETTERS**

**Private schools**

To the Editor:

Many thanks for the excellent article by Dr. Waleed Sadi, the Editor-in-Chief, published in the Jordan Times of Jan. 31, 1989 concerning private schools. I feel that the article expressed the thoughts of many people concerned with private education in Jordan.

L.B. Hodges  
Director  
New English School

## 'Shamir walking tightrope'

By Paul Taylor  
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is walking a tightrope as he works on proposals for a political solution to a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli analysts say.

Shamir must remain faithful to his hardline Likud Party's demand for sovereignty over the entire area of "Greater Israel" and to its adamant refusal to talk directly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

At the same time, analysts say, he needs to show enough flexibility to draw Palestinians and Arabs into peace talks, or at least convince the United States and Europe that Israel is pursuing a fair solution in good faith and cannot be blamed for deadlock.

Shamir is sounding flexible to ease international pressure on Israel but he is keeping his real cards close to his chest, a foreign ministry official said.

"He knows that if he comes out with a complete peace plan, the Arabs will reject it and it will be still-born."

The 73-year-old right-wing leader, long wedded to a status quo that appeared to favour Israel until the uprising erupted in December 1987, announced shortly after forming a new national unity cabinet last December that he was working on a peace initiative.

Aides say he will take proposals to Washington in March or April when he pays his first visit to President Bush.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whom Shamir tends to trust despite his membership of the rival Labour Party, is sounding out Palestinians in the occupied territories on their conditions for easing the uprising.

Despite continuing high daily casualties

## A Persian in 19th century England

Although the two countries have been on cordial terms for many years, few Iranians (Persians) visited England before the twentieth century. Early in the nineteenth century, however, a Persian envoy came to the court of King George III — and he subsequently recorded his experiences.

By Maggie James

LONDON — Although as early as the 17th century, Englishmen had Persia and described their impressions, there were very few official visits to England by Persians before the 20th century. A Persian Ambassador, Mirza Ali Hassan Khan, was sent to London for eight months during years 1809-10 on a diplomatic mission — to secure an Anglo-Persian Treaty — and in the process he kept a journal in the event that it would be useful to ambassadors.

His intelligent and observant account of English society, written with great charm and mirth, was discovered by American writer Margaret Morris who lived in Tehran from 1972. She translated the journal, which belonged to Abul Hassan's great-great-great granddaughter and was originally called *Hearat-namah* (The Book of Wonders), into English. Claske's English version, entitled *A Persian at the Court of King George III*: The Journal of Mirza Ali Hassan Khan, has been published by Barrie & Jenkins.

to have only one child, most families living in rural areas — where 80 per cent of the Chinese people live — will now be allowed to have a second child if the first one is a girl.

"This is because if they have only one daughter they will have a lot of difficulties both in food production and in their daily lives," Mrs. Peng explained.

### One child policy

Of course, there have been many exceptions to the one-child policy since it was first enunciated 10 years ago, and some authorities have been practising the girl-first/second-birth rule for some time. But now it is to be made universal except for the three major cities of Peking, Shanghai and Tianjin and the two most populous provinces of Sichuan and Jiangsu.

In heavily populated Sichuan, Mrs. Peng said, the more flexible policy will be applied selectively in the more rural and remote areas, but will not apply in and around the city of Chengdu, for example. Nor will it apply in Jiangsu, an intensely populated province with 70 million people.

"Minorities will continue to be treated in a more relaxed way with local autonomous authorities formulating their own regulations based on their own specific conditions."

There is concern, it seems, that many peasants have not been willing to forgo baby babies, especially now that economic reforms have added to the opportunities to make money from the land. The average family size has come down in the rural areas to 2.6 per couple, compared with a national average in the 1970s of 5.8 — but this remains a far cry from the urban average of only 1.3 per couple.

It is partly for this reason that the government has put its weight behind the work of the China Family Planning Association — a voluntary movement set up in 1980 with the help of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, an organisation with member associations in some 125 countries.

In the last year the fledgling China FPA has seen its membership grow from one million to over five million — and the target for 1990 is 40 million. If achieved this will mean that nearly one in six of all China's couples of reproductive age will be involved in this volunteer network.

And since it is planned that each volunteer will work with five or six other families, the potential outreach could blanket the country.

The volunteers are drawn from older people respected in the

## A quiet revolution in China

By John Rowley

KING — Quietly, with hardly a word reaching the outside world, a major change has come to China's famous one-child population programme.

On the one hand the policy has been modified to make more realistically acceptable in countryside. On the other, a volunteer army has been mobilised by the non-governmental Family Planning Association of China, which aims to represent all people and to help them practise family planning as a aid health and social welfare undertaking as well as to help achieve population goals.

The change on the policy front spelled out to me in an exciting interview with the jolly, user-clad Minister in charge of State Family Planning Commission, Mrs. Peng Peiyuan, who took over the job earlier this year. He reports that China was now likely to achieve its target of cutting its giant population to 1.2 billion by the end of the century previously planned. The children of the baby boom of the 1950s are now having babies of their own, creating a new birth peak which is likely to persist into the 1990s.

The major shift in policy, according to Mrs. Peng, is that she would like each couple

state, any number of ministers and friends from all over the world were present in Bonn to celebrate Brandt's birthday, which actually occurred on 18 December last year.

President von Weizsäcker said that Nobel-Prize-winner Brandt was

"a German of historic rank. His firm wish for peace, devoid of illusions, his courage and his humanity have made him one of the leading figures in the post-war world."

Among the guests was Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski. President von Weizsäcker emphasised Brandt's services to relaxation of tension between East and West and for reconciliation with the Polish people.

Rakowski said that Brandt was

"a moral factor in politics." He hoped that Brandt's ideas for reconciliation would reach "an optimistic high point" this year. Brandt was visibly moved by the expressions of friendship made during the celebration. Brandt, who is a very articulate speaker, said: "In this circle of friends I am reminded my journey through life." He spoke to the more than 40 people who came to congratulate him on his birthday in German, English, French, Spanish and Norwegian.

Among the important guests who attended the party were President Francois Mitterrand from France, Portugal's President Mario Soares, president-elect Carlos Andres Perez from Venezuela, the Swedish head of government Ingvar Carlsson and the head of the Norwegian government Gro Harlem Brundtland, Austria's Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, the President of the European Commission Jacques Delors.

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## Iran reverses stand on foreign borrowing

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Iran has reversed its policy of refusing to borrow from foreign banks as another step toward rebuilding an economy devastated after eight years of war with Iraq, an official said.

In an interview published in the New York Times Friday, Gholamreza Agazadeh, Iran minister of oil and mineral wealth, said Iran would borrow for revenue-producing projects and that such borrowing would not exceed \$3 billion over the next five years.

"In my country big debate has gone on," he said. "Now we have decided the No. 1 priority in this country is reconstruction of the economy."

Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had banned such loans when he took power 10 years ago and established an Islamic government.

Recent changes in government policy, including a decision to reopen a natural gas pipeline to the Soviet Union announced in December, reflected a decision to pursue a more pragmatic approach to solving the country's woes, Agazadeh said.

### Rafsanjani emphasises economic independence

In Tehran, Iran's parliament speaker Friday said his country, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, must seek economic independence and self-sufficiency in the next decade, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The official agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying in a sermon at

## Japan records \$79.5 billion current account surplus in '88

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's current account surplus shrank in 1988 for the first time in seven years, falling 8.7 per cent to \$79.488 billion from \$87.015 billion in 1987, the Finance Ministry announced Friday.

In the month of December, the nation's current account surplus shrank to \$9.274 billion from \$9.435 billion a year earlier, although it grew from \$6.762 billion in November 1988, the ministry said.

The current account is the broadest measure of a nation's international financial flows, and includes trade, investment, tourism and other transactions.

Japan's trade surplus also declined 1.7 per cent during the year to \$94.789 billion from \$96.386 billion the previous year. It was the first annual drop in the trade surplus in six years, ministry officials said.

December's trade surplus, however, continued a recent upward trend, rising to \$10.932 billion from \$9.958 billion a year earlier and \$7.559 billion in November 1988.

The decline in the current account surplus was due primarily to the growing number of Japanese travelling overseas and increasing payments of patent royalties, ministry officials said.

A record \$8.40 million Japanese travellers spent a record \$15.76 billion abroad in 1988, compared to the previous year's \$8.66 billion, ministry officials said.

The year-to-year drop in the current account surplus during December came as a relief to the government, which had expressed concern when the gap grew for two months in a row in October and November.

### Jobless rate falls

Meanwhile, Japan's monthly jobless rate fell in December,

## Aden to start oil production next year

**ABU DHABI (R)** — South Yemen, one of the Arab World's poorest countries, will begin producing oil in 1990 and hopes to become an exporter the following year, a United Arab Emirates oil magazine has reported.

The country's energy minister, Saleh Abu Baker Ibn Hussain, was quoted as saying South Yemen would produce 30,000



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JABAL AMMAN  
First Circle

barrels per day (b/d) by 1990 and 120,000 b/d by 1991.

"We will first cover local consumption and export the rest on the basis of market capacity and the best prices," Petroleum and Industry news reported him as saying.

Last month, newspapers in South Yemen said Aden and North Yemen had approved the establishment of a joint company to develop a mineral-rich region along their common border.

Oil was discovered in North Yemen's Marib region in 1984 and in South Yemen's Shabwa region across the border in 1986.

The newspapers said the company had received 32 bids from international oil and mineral companies for contracts to explore a 2,200 square-kilometre tract in the Shabwa and Marib regions.

Ibn Hussain told the oil magazine that some concessions had already been granted and others offered to unspecified Arab countries.

He gave no indication of the size of oil deposits already discovered but said a joint Kuwaiti company was among those exploring for oil in South Yemen.

Chinese purchases of coarse grains would bring its total grain imports to 16.6 million tonnes

by the end of June, the International Wheat Council (IWC) said Thursday.

The number of employed Japanese in December totalled 60 million, increasing by one million from a year earlier. The number of employed has increased by more than 800,000 in the last 14 months, since November 1987.

"The question is when to tighten, how much and how — not

whether," added economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co.

Despite the sharp rise in the number of jobs created, the civilian unemployment rate edged up to 5.4 per cent in January from 5.3 per cent in December.

The Labour Department Friday said American business added a surprising 408,000 non-farm jobs to their payrolls in January, up sharply from the 221,000 created in December and last year's average of 305,000 new jobs per month.

Although seasonal aberrations such as unusually mild weather inflated the January increase, economists said it still reflects an ever-tightening job market in a bustling economy in danger of triggering a pick-up in inflation.

The major policy implication is that the economy is close to full employment and is growing in excess of what economists see as the inflation-stable growth rate," said Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley Co.

The brisk pace of job creation, which economists consider to be a predictor of future economic trends, shows efforts by the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) to slow economic growth by nudging interest rates higher were not strong enough, they said.

Another round of credit tightening by the central bank is almost guaranteed within the next few weeks, they added.

The brisk pace of job growth in 1988, when 3.7 million jobs were added to payrolls, has been a source of concern for financial markets. Although rapid job growth reflects a strong economy, it also signals a tight labour market and often portends higher consumer spending, both of which have inflationary side effects, economists said.

The total unemployment rate

this year.

The IWC said China needed more imports after a shortfall in its 1988 harvest, officially estimated at only 393.8 million tonnes, including rice, against a target of 410 million.

China is the largest producer of grains, the IWC said. It is always the top rice producer and in most years the largest wheat producer.

By the year 2000 it wants to produce 500 million tonnes a year to keep up with population growth.

It said that, after a poor harvest, total Soviet imports of both wheat and coarse grains, which include maize (corn) and barley, would be up about 13 per cent at 35 million tonnes.

It also slightly raised its estimate of the total world grain crop, meaning that stocks held against emergencies may not be as tight as had been feared after last year's U.S. drought and the lower Soviet and Chinese harvests.

The IWC said China's wheat imports in 1988/89 would surpass previous record purchases of 15.3 million tonnes in 1987/88. The Soviet Union is seen importing 14 million tonnes of wheat.

Chinese purchases of coarse grains would bring its total grain imports to 16.6 million tonnes

by the end of June, the International Wheat Council (IWC) said Thursday.

The constraint may be China's ability to pay for imports.

Meanwhile, the new IWC estimate of Soviet imports of wheat and coarse grains this year, at 35 million tonnes, is up two million on a forecast made last December and is four million higher than actual imports in 1987/88.

Some grain trade analysts say

the Soviet Union could import as much as 40 million tonnes this year.

## G-7 stresses currency coordination

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The West's financial leaders papered over cracks in economic policy coordination during two days of low-key talks but Europe and Japan left President George Bush with a clear message to cut the U.S. budget deficit.

The government has proposed a major five-year development plan. But, amid continuing shortages and power cuts, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini warned last month that Iranian face years of economic problems.

Iran, bolstering relations with the West and Soviet bloc after a decade of self-imposed isolation, has signed numerous economic and technical agreements to bolster its massive post-war reconstruction drive.

Rafsanjani, architect of Iran's new open-door foreign policy, favours seeking foreign aid to help fund the reconstruction programme. But he faces stiff opposition from radicals led by Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, who favours tightened state control of the economy.

That debate is still raging in Tehran, with no clear policy yet decided.

Rafsanjani acknowledged that because of "the moves of our enemies," Iran has fallen behind the rest of the world in technological development over the last decade.

He said that "after the revolution a serious move towards development began," but noted that the war and "economic sanctions" imposed by foreign countries drained Iran's economy.

Had there been no war, he stressed, "obviously more steps would have been taken" to develop the economy, IRNA quoted him as saying.

There are still factors that need imported raw materials and machinery in order to resume operations, and Iran is still partly dependent on imports to feed the people," Rafsanjani said.

"But conditions and resources are sufficient to make it totally possible to attain economic independence," he stressed.

Many key industries such as oil, gas and petrochemicals, which were badly damaged in the war, have resumed partial operations in recent months.

But, amid falling oil revenues, Western economic estimates indicate that Iranian factories are working at around one-third of

capacity, unemployment is pegged at an estimated 35 per cent and the country has to import one-third of its food.

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Rafsanjani

# Sports

## Kuwait leads Jordan in Davis Cup

By Ramia Atalla  
Kuwait Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After a tough and heated three-and-a-half-hour match, Kuwait Saturday managed to take a hard-fought 2-1 lead over Jordan in the men's tennis preliminaries of Davis Cup.

Saturday's doubles match followed a tie between the two teams in the singles matches Friday. The two remaining singles games, to be played Sunday, will determine which team will meet Pakistan for the second-round of Davis Cup. Group II Asia-Oceania zone matches in April.

While the Jordanian team got off to a solid start Saturday, winning the first set 6-2, the Kuwaitis put up a tough fight, winning three consecutive tie-breakers 8-6, 7-5, and 7-3.

During the first set, the Kuwaiti team, represented by captain Khaled Ashkenani, 23, and Aiman Al Ashouk, 19, managed to snatch only the first and seventh games from the Jordanian players, Hani Al Ali, 23, and Abdullah Al Khalil.

Aided by a few sloppy errors by the host team, the guests pulled their act together right from the beginning in the second set. Half way through the set, Ali and Khalil managed well-placed smashes as momentum picked up during the first tie-breaker.

Tension rose in the third set when Kuwait's strong-served Ashkenani made a double fault, allowing the Jordanians to momentarily catch up in the game. But with Ashouk serving the last set, the Kuwaitis managed a 7-5 tie-breaker winner.

The audience's enthusiasm climaxed with a series of beautifully-played rallies in the fourth set. The self-controlled Ali came into the last set geared up for carefully calculated shots, making up for what a tennis fan referred to as Khalil's "abrupt" and "hasty" hits.

The fourth was marked by neck-to-neck volleys as both sides complained about points being unfairly called to their disadvantage. During that set, both Ali and Khalil lost their service games, and went into a tie-breaker following whole-hearted attempts to snatch a last-minute victory.

At that point, however, neither Ali's solid services nor Khalil's volleys could save the day. With Ashouk excelling in high smashes and Ashkenan in strong and solid long shots, the Kuwaitis scored their hard-fought victory, in preparation for Sunday's final games.

Despite the extremely cold temperature in the indoor court, its too-smooth surface, and distractions caused by members of the audience who smoked and moved around while play was in progress, the four players gave an excellent performance.

**FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989**

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Friendships could be affected if negative feelings generated today are acted upon. Use the gift of persuasion to convince others that hostile acts serve no useful purpose.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Enjoy a lazy day and sleep in even though some of the day's tasks may have to be set aside. Get away from it all with quiet time and relaxation.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Avoid major decisions that could lead to bad understandings. All of this will seem trivial tomorrow, so keep cool and temperate today.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) See your financial house in order. Go over books and records, pay bills and get the mail directly to the post office when you are late.

**MOON** (June 22 to Jul. 21) When thoughts turn inward it is a perfect time for a mental housecleaning. Evaluate your current position.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Sudden mood swings and interruptions are all part of this day. Someone may press you for a decision that would be better postponed.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Household demands may be more than you have time or energy for.

Siblings have important academic considerations.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You may be spending extra cash before you have any. A stronger budget with practical controls is needed as a guideline.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Change is inevitable, and unrealistic behavior serves only to hasten and disrupt orderly change. Open up and share your thoughts and plans.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may want to tell it like it is, but before you do so clean up your approach and use a soft sell. Relax.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get rid of those things you have no use for and utilize that which you wish to keep. Have some fun with your "junkies."

**TAURUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Delays, problems and poor timing make for irritations throughout the day. It is best to leave important matters for another day.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The early morning is excellent for getting in touch with your psychic self. Romance could brighten the later day.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Okay, we agree to never use nuclear weapons when we fight. How about conventional forces?"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**LOBOD**

He never listens to me!

**AXTEC**

A BOXER WHO FAILS TO CARRY OUT HIS SECOND'S SUGGESTIONS IS SOMETIMES THIS.

**TRIMAN**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**GARUJA**

Answer here:

Saturday's Jumble: MURKY WHILE JACKAL RAMROD Answered: A four-letter word that some people find most "objectionable" — "WORK."

(Answers tomorrow)

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Tyson reduces weight

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson has reduced his weight from 113 kilograms to the neighbourhood of 99 kilograms. That's bad news for Frank Bruno, the muscular Briton who will challenge Tyson for the undisputed heavyweight championship Feb. 25 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Of course, a hulky Tyson could handle the muscular but mechanical Bruno. After all, the badly out-of-shape Tim Witherspoon knocked out Bruno in the 11th round of a World Boxing Association title defence July 19, 1986. Bruno, ranked no. 1 by both the WBA and World Boxing Council although he's done little to earn the rating, hasn't fought in almost 18 months because his connections didn't want to risk losing a big payday against Tyson. A payday is all Bruno will get. Tyson, who wants to weigh 98.8 kilograms for the fight, looked lean and mean although he held back much of the time during eight rounds of sparring before the media mob at Johnny Tocco's ringside gym. There were flashes of Tyson's quickness and hand speed and there was that constant sense of menace he brings to fights, which is a major weapon for him. A sign proclaimed, "Welcome home Mike," and Tyson, his body glistening with sweat — he keeps the heat up when he trains — acted like a man who truly felt at home. The 23-year-old Tyson hasn't fought since his 91-second bashing of Michael Spinks last June 27 — by far the longest layoff of his career. "It's great to be champion," he said. "It's good to be called champion and be patted on the back, but I said, 'hey, it's time to get back to work.'" During the layoff, his weight was not the only thing that increased. So did Tyson's understanding of himself. "I've learned about myself, my character," said Tyson, whose highly publicised out-of-ring problems have made him a real-life soap opera character. "I understand Mike Tyson now — my moods and my feelings." Tyson contends he is his own man, although his alignment with promoter Don King makes some people wonder.

### Bahrain beats Syria

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain beat Syria 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 Saturday in the men's doubles to take a 2-1 lead on the second day of the first Davis Cup tournament held in the Gulf state. Bahrain now needs to win one men's singles match Sunday to meet Thailand in the second elimination round in April. The three countries are in the 12-nation Asia-Oceanic zone group 2 play. "All we need is to win one match tomorrow instead of two," said Bahrain coach Larry Gagnon after the match at the Isa town courts. Syria's no. 1 seed, Mounjed Bou Hasson Ben Saber, who had been sidelined Friday with a shoulder injury, completed the doubles match without difficulty.

### W. Germany goes to second round

KARLSRUHE (R) — West Germans Boris Becker and Eric Jelen put the defending champions into the second round of the Davis Cup Saturday when they beat Indonesians Suaharyadi and Wailan Walalangi 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. The doubles victory gave West Germany a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match first round tie in the world group. Despite the comfortable victory, which followed equally easy singles wins by Becker and Carl-Uwe Steeb Friday, Becker paid tribute to Suaharyadi and Walalangi, ranked 525th and 947th in the world respectively. "The Indonesians showed in the second set that they could play some good tennis," Becker said. "Walalangi's strength is that he is a good fighter."

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHANIF

### CAREFUL TECHNIQUE PAYS OFF

Both vulnerable, South deals:

**NORTH**

♦ 7 5 2

♦ 6 3 2

♦ A 7 5 3

♦ K 6 4

**WEST**

♦ 9 4 3

♦ 10 9 5 4

♦ J 6

♦ J 9 8 3

**EAST**

♦ 8

♦ V A Q J 8 7

♦ K Q 10 4 2

♦ Q 10

**SOUTH**

♦ A K Q J 10 6

♦ K

♦ Q 9 8

♦ A 7 5 2

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT 2 ♠

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Terrible things can happen on

Friday the 13th. That's why you

have to pay extra care as declarer to avoid catastrophe.

South was a whisker short of a

jump to four spades. North, with

two prime cards and three trumps,

had no hesitation about accepting

his partner's invitation — remember,

aces and kings are undervalued in

the point count.

East rose with the ace on part-

ner's heart lead and continued with the queen, ruffed by declarer. Paced with a certain loser in each minor suit, declarer's problem was to avoid losing a second club trick.

That would be easy enough if clubs were to break 3-3 or trumps 2-2. But what if clubs were 2-2 and trumps 3-2?

If declarer does not draw trumps and plays three rounds of clubs, the defenders might be able to lead a fourth club and overruff dummy. If declarer were to draw two rounds of trumps and then try three rounds of clubs, a defender might be able to lead another trump to eliminate dummy's ruffing ability.

The secret of success is surprisingly simple. Declarer should draw only one round of trumps and then duck a club. Suppose a defender wins and returns a trump — as good a defense as any. Declarer must leave the last trump outstanding and cash the king and ace of clubs.

If clubs are 3-3, declarer draws the last trump and claims his contract — the 13th club is high. If clubs are 4-2, declarer must hope that the player with the long trumps also has four clubs, so that he can ruff his club loser on the table.

## Forest maintains challenge

LONDON (R) — Nigel Clough seized the chance to impress England soccer manager Bobby Robson with a goal in each half as Nottingham Forest won 3-2 away to Luton Saturday and maintained their First Division title hopes.

Robson was on hand to watch the four Forest members of his England squad, Stuart Pearce, Steve Hodge, Neil Webb and Des Walker, but it was Clough who caught the eye.

A first half penalty and then a superbly executed free kick from 25 metres out 16 minutes from the end added to Gary Parker's opening goal and gave Forest full points.

But the victory took them no closer to leaders Arsenal and second-placed Norwich, who both won 2-1, Arsenal at home to lowly London neighbours West Ham and Norwich away to struggling Charlton.

Arsenal head the First Division by three points with 47 points from 22 games, one less than the challenging teams. Coventry maintained third place on goal difference despite managing only a 1-1 draw away to Middlesbrough but were joined on 37 points by Forest, who moved up one place into fourth.

The threatened challenge by champions Liverpool failed to materialise as they were held to a 2-2 draw by last-placed E Newcastle.

Newcastle, who pulled off a shock 2-1 win at Anfield in October, threatened a repeat performance on their own territory as they twice took the lead through their foreign imports Mirandinha and Frank Pingel.

Once again, however, it was the double act of Ian Rush and John Aldridge who spared Liverpool's blushes.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1989 7

It took the Brazilian only three minutes to open the scoring when goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Nichol both hesitated as he nipped in to score from the tightest of angles.

Rush banged home the equaliser from close range after 15 minutes but Newcastle, playing far better than their position in the table indicated, were unlucky not to have led at the post when a superb 35-metre drive from Mirandinha hit the post.

The second half was only four minutes old when Danish striker Pingel Rose above the Liverpool defence to head home his first goal for Newcastle.

But their joy was short-lived and within 60 seconds Aldridge headed Liverpool back onto level terms.

The draw left Liverpool 11 points adrift of Arsenal and plenty of work to do if they are not to surrender their championship

title.

Newcastle manager Jim Smith drew comfort from the result.

"We turned in a very encouraging performance, but a couple of silly little mistakes cost us victory. If we can learn from today and go on from there then we have a great chance of avoiding relegation," he said.

The point lifted them one place off the bottom, ahead of West Ham.

Alan Smith, included in England's squad for their friendly match against Greece next week, boosted their chances of making the team by grabbing Arsenal's second goal in their win over West Ham.

His 17th of the season in the 61st minute followed the opening goal by Perry Groves four minutes earlier and ensured maximum points for Arsenal, although Julian Dicks hit a consolation effort for West Ham six minutes from the end.

Newcastle, surprise league leaders for much of the earlier part of the season, still refuse to give up the chase.

## Inequities remain in S. African sports despite racial reform

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

ly eager to rejoin international competition, have vowed to intensify their pursuit of multiracial domestic leagues.

JOHANNESBURG — Formal racial barriers have been removed from the top level of most South African sports, but deep-rooted inequities persist that undercut white officials' pleas to rejoin the international sports community.

# World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1989

## Date set for Sino-Soviet summit

PEKING (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will travel to China in mid-May for a meeting with China's Deng Xiaoping that will formally bring to a close three decades of enmity between the two communist nations, officials announced Saturday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also said at a news conference Saturday that the two sides have agreed to work toward reducing their offensive forces and easing military tensions along their 8,000-kilometre border.

He said his three days of talks in Peking including a Saturday morning meeting with Deng, had produced broad agreements on the need for Sino-Soviet efforts to end the 10-year war in Kampuchea.

Shevardnadze left after the

news conference for a flight to Islamabad, Pakistan, where he is to confer with Pakistani leaders about the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and the prospects for peace in that war-torn nation.

"It is our common task now to make sure to contribute to ending the bloodshed, to contribute to ending the hostilities and to contribute to the development of dialogue between the Afghans," he said.

Shevardnadze said he and Deng had agreed that the first summit since Nikita Khrushchev met Mao Tse-Tung in Peking in 1959 will take place in mid-May. Soviet sources said the tentative date was May 15.

China and the Soviet Union split in 1960 as a result of bitter feuds over the leadership of the communist world and strategy

toward relations with Western nations.

They fought a brief border war in 1969 and in recent years have been divided over the wars in Kampuchea and Afghanistan, and the troop face-off along their border.

China last year agreed to begin talking about a Soviet-proposed summit after Gorbachev announced plans to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reduce Soviet troop strength in Asia. There also was progress toward solving their dispute over the Kampuchean war.

On Friday, China formally invited Gorbachev to visit, and Shevardnadze accepted on the Soviet leader's behalf.

The Soviet Union, a financial backer of Vietnam, now agrees with China, supporter of the anti-Vietnamese rebels in Kam-

puchea, on the need for Vietnam to end its military occupation of that southeast Asian country.

Shevardnadze said China and the Soviet Union agree on most of the international issues involved in bringing peace to Kampuchea, such as ending all shipments of arms to the warring rebel factions after a political settlement is reached.

He said the internal problems

of national reconciliation are now the most important in Kampuchea.

"The Soviet side and the Chinese side are ready to contribute to the development of that process," Shevardnadze said.

Shevardnadze said he had proposed that Soviet and Chinese diplomats and military experts begin drafting an agreement on reducing military forces along their common border.

## Paraguay counts dead; Stroessner faces exile

ASUNCION (R) — Ousted President Alfredo Stroessner, Latin America's longest-ruling dictator, faced exile Saturday as Paraguayans tried to work out the death toll in a bloody military coup that ended his 34-year rule.

Police and military had no official figures but local radio stations said between 100 and 250 people, many of them civilians, were killed in street battles between Stroessner loyalists and army rebels Thursday night and early Friday.

Radio reports in Buenos Aires said up to 300 had died.

The whereabouts of Stroessner, overthrown by his former number two in the army command, General Andres Rodriguez, were unclear but state radio in Asuncion said Friday night that he would leave for exile in Chile "in the next several hours."

Chilean Defence Minister Patricio Carvajal said earlier he believed Chile would grant Stroessner political asylum if he wanted it.

Other reports speculated that Stroessner might take up residence in Brazil or South Africa.

Army officials said earlier that Stroessner, 76, widely accused of human rights violations and harbouring Nazi war criminals during his rule, had been detained in a barracks.

Rodriguez, whose daughter Marta is married to Stroessner's youngest son Alfredo, took office as provisional president and vowed to bring democracy and

respect for human rights to the impoverished, landlocked South American nation.

He had not previously shown public dissent.

Thousands of jubilant civilians took to the streets Friday to cheer Rodriguez and welcome the coup, which some called "the revolution for democracy."

Radio announcers who for over three decades had spoken respectfully of Stroessner referred to him as "the dictator."

But popular euphoria faded Saturday to uncertainty about the number of dead and the fate of high officials of Stroessner's government, which had been widely accused of human rights abuses and corruption.

In Santiago, the head of Chile's militarized police force said Stroessner himself would likely leave Paraguay Saturday morning but did not say if he was bound for Chile. It is very likely they will take him out of the country tomorrow (Saturday) morning, but we don't know where to," General Mario Mardones, head of the Carabineros, told reporters.

Paraguay and Chile are the two last strongholds of military rule in a continent that has moved to democracy in the past decade. As

president, Stroessner had cordial ties with Augusto Pinochet's government in Chile.

The fate of other members of the Stroessner administration remained unclear.

Some members of Rodriguez's civilian cabinet sworn in Friday held high posts under Stroessner. New Finance Minister Enzo Demetrio headed the state electricity company.

But Radio Caritas, broadcasting in the capital said:

"We lack information on the whereabouts of authorities of the Stroessner regime. We do not know whether they are under arrest or not."

Rodriguez, who Friday gave a speech promising to bring democracy to Paraguay, has not yet set a timetable for elections.

An almost complete lack of official information on the number of people who died in the coup meanwhile resulted in widely varying estimates of the death toll in local news media.

Radio Caritas reported rumours that about 200 people had died but a local newspaper, Ultima Hora, said the death toll was around 100. In Buenos Aires, radio reports from Asuncion said the death toll was as high as 300.

Ultima Hora reported that several civilians had been wounded after taxis and buses fled Asuncion city centre stranding civilians on the main battlefront round after fighting broke out Thursday night.

## COLUMN 8

J.R. may wheel, deal in Moscow

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meets the ultimate capitalist, J.R. Ewing?

If Larry Hagman has his way, the meeting will become a reality in March when "Dallas" is tentatively scheduled to go on location in the Soviet Union and Europe. Hagman, as well as regulars Patrick Duffy, Cathy Podewell, Sheree J. Wilson and George Kennedy, are awaiting a final decision on the trip. If approved, they will film scenes for "Dallas" in the Soviet Union, Austria and West Germany.

I have no idea what the story will be," said Hagman, who this season became co-executive producer of the series with Leonard Kitzman: "I don't think we'll know until Leonard finishes shooting the locations. But Russia exports more oil than any other country, including Saudi Arabia and Iran. It's their only source of hard dollars. So I think J.R. may do a little dealing. And might J.R. seek an audience with Gorbachev? 'Don't think we aren't trying. If we could just touch flesh just once, I'm all for it.' It'll be fun," said Hagman.

"It'll generate some interest. Hagman became co-executive producer in September, a title offered by Lorimar Television, but he acknowledged it's mainly an excuse. "They had to find some way to pay me more money," he said. "It was a means of paying me the executive producer's salary, if you want to know the truth."

## Businessman sells cans of carnival air

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A Brazilian businessman has caught a whiff of the profits in the air of carnival.

Inaldo Medeiros is canning air from the busiest crossroad at Olinda, festivites in northeast Brazil and selling it for a dollar a tin. O Globo newspaper said with Gorbachev? "Don't think we aren't trying. If we could just touch flesh just once, I'm all for it." It'll be fun," said Hagman.

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## Pollution experts set to battle Antarctic oil spill

SANTIAGO (R) — Oil seeping from an Argentine ship sunk off the Antarctic is spreading over several miles, experts said Friday, but they disagreed whether sludge was washing ashore near the nesting places of thousands of rare sea birds.

International pollution fighters from Argentina, Chile and the United States were headed to the area hoping to prevent an environmental disaster.

Fears of a disaster in the unspoilt frozen continent were raised after the Bahia Paraiso, a supply and tourist boat, capsized in the Bismarck Straits on the northern tip of the Antarctic. It was carrying 250,000 gallons of diesel oil in barrels.

Pedro Romero, director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute, told Reuters Friday that an institute plane flying over the wreck had calculated the slick measured some 5 kilometres long by 10

kilometres wide. Romero said that for the moment the slick extended back from the stricken boat. He said the slick was away from the shore where thousands of nesting penguins and other birds would be at risk from oil.

But researchers for the U.S. National Science Foundation working at the Antarctic base Palmer Station, three kilometres from the wreck site, say oil from the ship has already washed ashore near sea bird rookeries.

"There are thousands of penguin chicks about to take to the water for the first time and it could be their last," Anton Inderbitzen, director of the National Science Foundation's Polar Programmes, told journalists here Thursday.

The Antarctic environment is very fragile. We are extremely concerned (that is why) we have sent down our best equipment to the sunken ship's tanks.

The U.S. group has sent 52 tonnes of special oil spill containment equipment.

Fourteen Chilean pollution fighters were due to set off Friday from the southern Chilean port of Punta Arenas for the four-day journey by sea to the wreck site.

The Chilean navy was also sending a boat to the area, while a Chilean Antarctic institute vessel was expected in the area.

The Chilean navy has dismissed fears that the boat has already begun to leak large quantities of oil, saying the seepage so far has come from waste fuel in the ship's engines, not its cargo of diesel oil.

Local newspapers Friday quoted the captain of a Spanish ocean research boat, Las Palmas, which had been in the area until early Thursday, as saying there was no sign of oil escaping from the sunken ship's tanks.

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Both of us are realistic men, the Japanese prime minister and me, and we realise we are going to have some confrontation at times, or certainly some differences of opinion," he said.

"I have increased confidence that the meeting with President Bush has established the firm base for further friendship," Takeshita told reporters Friday after talks on trade and other issues with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

He said El Salvador was far closer to the "triumph of the rule of law and respect for individual civil liberties" than it was when Bush came here to lecture Salvadorean leaders on the need to achieve social justice and protect human rights.

The anti-democratic forces of the extreme left and the extreme right are ideologically exhausted and weakened by the remarkable progress you have made, but they're still out there and they have in the past thrived on violations of human rights," Quayle said.

This is not the same El Salvador that President Bush visited five years ago," Quayle said at a luncheon hosted by President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

He said El Salvador was far closer to the "triumph of the rule of law and respect for individual civil liberties" than it was when Bush came here to lecture Salvadorean leaders on the need to achieve social justice and protect human rights.

The vice-president, whose visit came as El Salvador prepares for a March 19 presidential election, said democracy, economic growth and human rights went hand in hand.

Before leaving El Salvador, Quayle was scheduled to meet the country's military high command.

"I will convey a very strong emphatic message that we condemn violence on the left and on the right. We expect them (the military) to work towards eliminating human rights abuses. I'm not just here to use platitudes," Quayle said.

A U.S. official told reporters travelling with Quayle that the vice-president would discuss specific cases of human rights abuses in his meeting with military officials.

It seems like the national code of ethics is crumbling dangerously ... the evil is profound and devastating for it persists — albeit in a

smaller scale — through the next few months," Sales said.

Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians will jump and gyrate to the beat of samba music non-stop for the next five days.

At Rio's famous carnival balls scantily-clad women wiggle their hips to the hungry eyes of tipsy men whose fingers are sometimes tempted to walk on their sun-tanned backs.

It is a scene to appal puritans and feminists alike.

"It's really anguish to see those women jump down to such a low level. Those men pant at them like dogs," said Maria Caixa, a teacher.

Evolving from the 1930s when Brazil's high society drove in

open cars through the city centre in the build-up to shrove Tuesday, the country's carnival processions have become more and more erotic.

"Carnival has lost its original idea. It ought to be called carnivorous-val. There's no spirituality. It's all sex and flesh," said Celia Leal, sales manager for a foreign company.

About 90 per cent of Brazil's 140 million inhabitants are Roman Catholics.

Often the songs of Rio's samba schools pay homage to saints in an exotic mix of Roman Catholic and Afro-Brazilian motifs which Brazilians boast cannot be compared to any other cultural manifestation worldwide.

## Archbishop slams world's biggest Catholic country for erotic carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil, the world's biggest Roman Catholic country, is ready to let loose for the most sensuous and glamorous show on Earth — carnival — but Rio's archbishop had harsh words for revellers Friday.

Rio's carnival begins Saturday when the major bands over the city keys to Rei Momo, the clown king who presides over the festivities.

But in a radio broadcast

Archbishop Eugenio de Araujo Sales condemned the excesses and "illegitimate festivities" of carnival.

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of ethics is crumbling dangerously ... the evil is profound and devastating for it persists — albeit in a

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